

# King County Healthcare Coalition

## Monthly Update

September 30, 2006  
Healthcare Coalition Monthly Update

The Healthcare Coalition planning effort is focused on (1) building the infrastructure to support greater coordination across the community's diverse health system, (2) developing coordinated surge capacity strategies and plans, and (3) supporting pandemic preparedness planning throughout the healthcare community.

The Healthcare Coalition is comprised of over 35 health care organizations and agencies. The next meeting of executives from Coalition member organizations will be in the Fall of 2006. Current priorities include pandemic flu and surge planning, strengthening the governance structure through the creation of the Executive Council, recruiting more Coalition members from non-hospital providers, and developing an on-going budget, staffing plan, and work groups. There is now a web page for the Coalition that can be accessed through the Public Health website (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/index.htm>).

(Coalition staff contacts – Richard Marks 206-322-0971 and Lydia Ortega 206-296-5079)

### WORKGROUP/ COMMITTEE INFORMATION & UPDATES

#### Ambulatory Care Preparedness Work Group (ACPWG)

(Staff contacts – Dr. Gary Goldbaum, PHSKC at 206-296-4991 & Aimee Welch, PHSKC at 206-205-4145)

The ACPWG is developing surge capacity plans for ambulatory care and triage services. The group is developing strategies that will expand outpatient care and telephone triage and reduce demand on hospital emergency rooms and inpatient facilities.

- The workgroup has now completed its Contingency Plans for the Ambulatory Care Response to Pandemic Influenza. It can be found at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/ambulatory/index.htm>
- The workgroup reconvened in September and is currently revising the Response Document to create a more user-friendly adaptation for providers in the field.
- The group will continue to develop strategies to disseminate the information as well as identify training priorities and strategize to reach key targets.

#### Critical Care Work Group

(Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin at 206-296-4814, Mark Tonelli, MD at [tonelli@u.washington.edu](mailto:tonelli@u.washington.edu))

This work group is comprised of Critical Care Directors from Coalition hospitals. Public Health will be contracting with Dr. Mark Tonelli, from the University of Washington to develop altered standards of care and clinical and staffing guidelines for mass critical care.

- Dr. Tonelli initiated his work in June 2006 and will present his preliminary recommendations to the Work Group in the fall.

#### Legal Work Group

(Staff contact – Amy Eiden, PHSKC at 206-206-8969)

This group is comprised of attorneys representing healthcare organizations and government entities in King County.

- The group is currently outlining recommended King County procedures for delivery of Health Officer Isolation Orders to hospitalized persons.
- They are also working on a document that describes legal issues associated with large scale emergency response.

#### Medical Directors Committee

(Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin, PHSKC at 206-296-4814)

The Medical Directors will provide expertise and leadership for issues related to clinical care during any health emergency where large-scale emergency response and/or changes in routine healthcare delivery are necessary. The Medical Directors will review and develop clinical policies, protocols, practice standards, and plans that are relevant to emergency response.

- The Medical Directors met on July 20<sup>th</sup>. They discussed potential, medical resource distribution approaches, surge models and Pandemic Flu employee training.
- "Pandemic Flu and You," a 7-module PowerPoint presentation of basic educational information for healthcare workers is available for review at the link below. If you have comments on the training or would like a copy of the PowerPoint to begin adaptation for use by your facility, please contact Dr. Kay Koelemay at [Kathryn.koelemay@metrokc.gov](mailto:Kathryn.koelemay@metrokc.gov).

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/training/pandemic-flu.htm>

#### Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

(Staff contact – Cynthia Dold, PHSKC at 206-205-0456)

This committee meets monthly to discuss a variety of hospital and healthcare emergency preparedness issues which includes surge capacity, evacuation planning, resource management, and training & exercises. The committee is currently working on the following issues:

- Finalizing work on a comprehensive assessment of current, disaster and catastrophic hospital capacity
- Determining HRSA 2006 funding priorities. Their list is due to DOH by the end of July along with their 2005 HRSA Year End Report
- Revising their Regional Hospital Response Plan
- Developing the Regional Medical Resource Center

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## PROJECT INFORMATION & UPDATES

### Alternate Facilities Project

(Project Manager– Tony Cebollero, PHSKC at 206-205-8621)  
He will work with partners to establish emergency facilities that can provide triage, ambulatory care, observation, and palliative care. These facilities will be designed to supplement the regular health care system in the event of emergencies that generate demand that exceeds existing surge capacity, i.e. “super surge.”

- Tony recently met with several representatives for South County to identify potential facilities for mass vaccination planning.
- He has also developed a selection criterion that outlines the general requirements a facility must possess in order to be considered as a potential Alternate Care Facility site. This criterion is being used by local communities as a guide to identify possible ACF sites within their respective jurisdictions.

### Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)

(Staff contact – Allison Schletzbaum, 206-731-6213)  
The RMRC is the linchpin for coordinated operational preparedness and response. The Center will monitor and distribute human and medical resources among participating Healthcare Coalition organizations and facilities based on the objectives of the emergency response.

- The RMRC has deployed the Positive Pressure Ventilation survey to Region 6 Hospitals. The survey will support RMRC planning and help guide the Critical Care Workgroup's planning strategy.
- Work continues on the Operational Plan and its accompanying documents such as Job Action Sheets, resource request forms, and Incident Command Structure documentation. The RMRC will continue work

on the Operational plan with the goal of completing the document on schedule with the Regional Hospital Plan timetable.

- Partnerships with local, state and federal partners continue to be strengthened as the RMRC explores the interdisciplinary aspects of regional response.
- The RMRC will continue to develop and deploy resource surveys as well as prepare for the Public Health Tabletop exercises.

### King County Call Center Project

(Project Manager, Joe Crolepy, Washington Poison Control, 206-517-2383)

This project will document the existing call center capacity of participating health-related and medical organizations and will develop strategies to increase capacity. The Project will address medical phone advice and triage, as well as other public information needs. The project will involve the participation of 911 and 211 systems, Group Health and Evergreen Hospital, the Red Cross, the Office of Emergency Management, Sound Telecom, and Public Health.

- Work will continue on documenting existing call center resources in the region and mapping each organization's potential surge capacity.
- Joe recently met with Evergreen Healthline, the University of Washington Computing and Communications Department, and Sound Telecom. Each has agreed to lend their assistance as partners in the Call Surge project.

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## OTHER UPDATES

- Free personal and family pandemic flu preparedness brochures: *Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: A Personal and Family Guide* is an excellent resource for educating employees about the potential impact of pandemic flu, and giving them the tools and the encouragement to prepare now. Free copies (including delivery) in English and Spanish are available through the Washington State Department of Health Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/family\\_brochure.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/family_brochure.htm) (click on General Store Website link to order brochures).
- Sponsored by Public Health Seattle and King County (PHSKC), the Pandemic Flu exercises will test different components of response to a Pandemic Influenza event. For more information about the exercises please contact Whitney Taylor, the Training and Exercise Program Manager with PHSKC at [Whitney.Taylor@METROK.COV](mailto:Whitney.Taylor@METROK.COV) or call (206) 296-0203.

### Pandemic Flu Exercises Schedule:

Oct. 6, 2006 - Communicable Disease and Surveillance  
Oct. 13, 2006 - Public Information Call Center (Functional Exercise)  
Oct. 27, 2006 - Leadership/Decision Making  
Nov. 3, 2006 - Health System Surge Capacity and Resource Management

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Ambulatory Care Implementation Group Meeting  
October 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 am @ King County Medical Society
- Healthcare Coalition Steering Committee Meeting  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 pm @ Harborview Medical Center Board Room, Pat Steele Building
- King County Emergency Healthcare Coalition  
November 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 9:50 am @ Harborview Medical Center Board Room

**For more information about the Healthcare Coalition or this update, contact:**

Lydia Ortega, Administrative Support 206-296-5079 [Lydia.Ortega@metrokc.gov](mailto:Lydia.Ortega@metrokc.gov)